



ORTHOPOX

Protocol Overview and Methods:

The causative agent of Smallpox is *Variola major*. A major distinguishing characteristic of smallpox is a rash where the bumps are filled with a thick, opaque fluid and often have a depression or dimple in the center.

DPHL does not analyze specifically for *Orthopox* viruses; however, while testing for other causative agents of rash illnesses, DPHL may detect *Orthopox*. All high risk rash cases are referred to CDC. Furthermore, any suspect cases or test results will be sent to CDC for confirmation.

DPHL can test for Varicella Zoster Virus (VZV) and *Vaccinia* viruses in specimens from patients via qPCR at low and moderate risk categories according to evaluation criteria in the CDC rash illness protocol. **Any positive qPCR results for *Vaccinia* and *Orthopox* are considered preliminary positive and must be sent to CDC for confirmation.**

- Herpes Simplex Virus identification/rule-out testing is performed via direct fluorescence antibody (DFA) and cell culture only.
- Molecular methods are used to detect specific segments of deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA) that these organisms contain. If present, DNA segments from *Orthopox*, *Vaccinia*, or VZV are amplified until there is a sufficient quantity for the instrument to detect. Specimens from patients in the high-risk category for possible smallpox will not be tested at DPHL.

Contact Information: DPHL Director: 302-223-1520. Answering service is available at the same number during non-business hours.

For More Information: **24/7 CDC Emergency Contact Number: 1-888-295-5156**
<http://www.cdc.gov/az/>